

TOMASZ MAJTCZAK
Jagiellonian University, Kraków
tomasz.majtczak@uj.edu.pl

TRANSLATING THE UNTRANSLATABLE: A YIDDISH TEXT IN JAPANESE RENDERING¹

Keywords: translation, Yiddish, Japanese, Katsenelson

Abstract

The paper collects some Yiddish words which do not lend themselves to easy translation and investigates the way they are rendered into Japanese. This is done with the example of the 1999 Japanese translation of Yitskhok Katsenelson's *Song of the murdered Jewish people*. Japanese renderings of selected fifteen lexemes reflecting the culture, religion and everyday life of the Yiddish speakers are gathered, analyzed as for their structure and compared with their German, English, Spanish, French, Polish and Russian counterparts.



Yitskhok Katsenelson in 1908
(Wikimedia Commons)

¹ The present paper was delivered at the 15th International Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies, Lisbon, 30 August – 2 September 2017. For providing me with many valuable materials relating to Y. Katsenelson most heartfelt thanks are due to Magdalena Sitarz and Andrzej Pawelec (both of the Jagiellonian University), and for his English-language assistance – to Joshua A. Fogel (York University). אַ שיינעם און גרויסן דאַנק!

Languages using scripts other than the Roman alphabet are herein Romanized according to the following systems: Arabic – transcription of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft; pre-modern Hebrew (from Biblical to Mediaeval) – transcribed uniformly according to the system expounded in Joüon, Muraoka (1996); Japanese – Hepburn transcription; Russian – linguistic transliteration; Yiddish – YIVO transcription.

Yitskhok Katsenelson יצחק קאַצענעלסאָן (also spelt Katzenelson) was a Jewish teacher, poet, playwright and translator, writing in both Hebrew and Yiddish. He was born in 1885, 1886, or perhaps 1887,² in Karelichy (Карэлічы, present-day Belarus), but from 1896 on he lived permanently in Łódź (Poland). He was married to Khane חנה, with whom he had three sons: Tsvi צבי, Bentsien בן-ציון and Benyomen בנימין. After the outbreak of the Second World War he and his family soon found themselves in the Warsaw ghetto. On 14 August 1942 his wife and two younger sons were deported to Treblinka, for immediate death in the gas chambers. After the ghetto uprising of 1943, he and the oldest son Tsvi fled to the Aryan side; they obtained Honduran passports, yet after arriving at the infamous Hotel Polski they did not leave for Central America but were instead carried to the internment camp in Vittel, north-eastern France. There Katsenelson wrote in Hebrew his *Pinkas Vitel* פנקס ויטל ("The Vittel diary", 22 May – 16 Sept. 1943) and in Yiddish – *Dos lid fun oysgehargetn yidishn folk* דאָס ליד פֿון אויסגעהרגעטן ייִדישן פֿאָלק ("The song of the murdered Jewish people", 3 Oct. 1943 – 17 Jan. 1944³). On 17 April 1944 Yitskhok and his son were taken away to the transit camp in Drancy, near Paris, and from there dispatched on 27 April to Auschwitz. Upon their arrival on 30 April 1944, they were murdered in a gas chamber, most probably already on 1 May.

The Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz (*Kibuts Loḥamey ha-Geta'ot* הגיסאות (קיבוץ לוחמי)), founded in 1949 and located in Western Galilee, Israel, established in the same year the "Itzhak Katzenelson Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum", also called the Ghetto Fighters' House (*Beyt Loḥamey ha-Geta'ot* בית לוחמי (הגסטאות)), where many manuscripts, printed works and other Katsenelsoniana are being preserved.⁴

Dos lid fun oysgehargetn yidishn folk, a poem of fifteen cantos comprised of fifteen four-line stanzas each, is one of the most shattering literary accounts of the Holocaust and a testimony all the more precious that it was written down when the mass murder was still taking place. It has been published many times in its Yiddish original, and translated into over a dozen languages, including (in alphabetical order): Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Ladino, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Swedish, sometimes even more than once.⁵

² Cf. Zilbertsvayg (1967: 4686).

³ Most of the consulted editions and translations give the final date as 18 Jan. 1944, but the manuscript copies of *Dos lid...* preserved at the Ghetto Fighters' House Archives and available online (GFHA: Collections Section, Catalogue No. 6631) bear the date "17/1", so the 18 must be a misprint repeated from one edition to another.

⁴ The above is based on: Zilbertsvayg (1967), Ficowski (1986) and Holtzman (2010), where more information on Yitskhok Katsenelson can also be found.

⁵ For details, see Sitarz, Pawelec (2014-), as well as Pawelec, Sitarz (2017: 78–79).

The Japanese version, entitled *Horobosareta Yudaya no tami no uta* 滅ぼされたユダヤの民の歌, appeared in the Tokyo publishing house Misuzu みすず in 1999, and it was prepared by two Germanists: Asukai Masatomo 飛鳥井雅友 and Hosomi Kazuyuki 細見和之, with Nishi Masahiko 西成彦 serving as their adviser. The translation is deliberately very faithful, almost literal, as can be seen from the following excerpt (canto 1: stanza 1: line 1–4, hereafter given in the abbreviated format: “1:1:1–4”):⁶

זינג! נעם דיין האַרף אין האַנט, הוי!, אויסגעהוילט און גרינג, <i>Zing! Nem dayn harf in hant, hoyl, oysgehoilt un gring,</i> “Sing! Take your harp in hand, hol- low, hollowed out and light,	「歌え! お前の堅琴を握め、虚ろな手、何もかも 奪われて軽やかなその手に <i>Utae! Omae no tategoto o tsukame, utsuro na te, nani mo ka mo ubawarete karoyaka na sono te ni</i> “Sing! Grasp your harp, in the empty hand, in this deprived-of-everything light hand [sic],
אויף זיינע סטרונועס דין וואַרף דיִינע פֿינגער שווער, <i>af zayne strunes din varf dayne finger shver,</i> onto its strings thin throw your fingers heavy,	か細い弦の上に、投げかけるのだ、お前の重い指 先を <i>kabosoi tsuru no ue ni, nagekakeru no da, omae no omoi yubisaki o</i> onto the thin strings you throw your heavy fingertips,
ווי הערצער, ווי צעווייטיקטע, דאָס ליד דאָס לעצטע זינג, <i>vi hertser, vi tseveytikte, dos lid dos letste zing,</i> like hearts, like tormented ones, this song this last one – sing,	お前の想い、胸張り裂けるお前の想いを、歌を、最 後の歌を、歌え <i>omae no omoi, mune harisakeru omae no omoi o, uta o, saigo no uta o, utae</i> your thoughts, your heartrending thoughts, the song, the last song – sing,
זינג פֿון די לעצטע יִידן אויף אייראָפּעס ערד. <i>zing fun di letste yidn af Eyropes erd.</i> sing of the last Jews on Europe’s soil.”	歌え、ヨーロッパの地の、最後のユダヤ人の、歌を」 <i>utae, Yōroppa no chi no, saigo no Yudayajin no, uta o</i> sing the song of European soil’s last Jews.”

The present paper aims at collecting some words found in Katsenelson’s “Song...” which seem untranslatable (or difficult to translate) and investigating the way they are rendered into Japanese. The phenomenon in question is not literal impossibility of translating a given Yiddish word, but rather the situation in which a certain language

⁶ Cf. Asukai, Hosomi (1999: 156): “訳文はあくまでカツェネルソンの原文にできるだけ忠実に訳している” (“We have done our best to make the translation as faithful to Katsenelson’s original as possible”). – All unattributed English translations here and below are my own and they are intended to be as literal as possible, bordering on linguistic glossing.

possesses no equivalent other than a borrowing from Yiddish (or from the Hebrew source of the Yiddish word), and this is regardless of whether the borrowing is long established in the language or whether it appears for the first time in the given translation; perhaps “untranslatedness” would be a better term here than untranslatability. To the said end canto eight has been chosen, *Eyn khor-eve, eyn umgebrakhte heyim* איין חרובֿע, איין אומגע-בראָכטע היים (“Nothing but a devastated, nothing but a slaughtered home”), which depicts a scene in a synagogue and therefore contains quite numerous items related to Judaism.

Translations into six European languages will serve for comparative purposes, two of them being Germanic, two Romance and two Slavonic, all spoken in countries with a (once) considerable Jewish population:

- German (DE), by Wolf Biermann (1994)⁷
- English (EN), by Noah H. Rosenbloom (1980)
- Spanish (ES), by Eliahu Toker (2006)
- French (FR), by Batia Baum (2007)
- Polish (PL), by Jerzy Ficowski (1986)
- Russian (RU), by Efrem Baux (1992).

The Yiddish words in question (YI) are listed below with their European-language equivalents, the latter being divided into two groups: Yiddish- or Hebrew-derived terms vs. all other devices, and then followed by the Japanese counterparts (JA) used by Asukai Masatomo and Hosomi Kazuyuki (1999). It seems significant that certain words are provided with an annotation or explained in a glossary, so the presence of such information will in each case be indicated, as “note” or “gloss” respectively. And here is the list compiled on the basis of the eighth canto of *Dos lid...* (occurrences outside this canto are not taken into account):

1. YI (*di*) *shul* שול (די) ‘synagogue’ (8:6:1+2+3, 8:12:2, 8:13:3)
 FR *shul* + gloss
 DE *Betstube* || *Synagoge*, EN *synagogue*, ES *sinagoga* || *templo*, FR *synagogue*,
 PL *bóznica* ‘synagogue’,⁸ RU *sinagoga* *синагога*
 JA *shinagōgu* シナゴーク ‘synagogue (< English)’ + note



Dust jacket of the Japanese translation of 1999

⁷ For more on Biermann and his translation, see e.g. Sitarz, Pawelec (2015), with further bibliographic data.

2. YI (*di*) *bime* בימה (די) ‘bema / bima(h) / almemar,⁹ i.e. the platform in a synagogue, usually centrally situated, from which the Torah is read out, prayers are conducted etc.’ (8:6:3+4, 8:12:3)
 DE *Bima*, EN *Bimah* + note, ES *almemar*, PL *bima* + note
 DE *Thora-Pult*, FR *tribune*, RU *altar’ алтарь* ‘altar’¹⁰
 JA *sekkyōdan* 説教壇 ‘in a church: pulpit, in a mosque: minbar / mimbar (*lit.* a platform for preaching / for expounding the teachings)’ + note
3. YI (*der*) *orn-koydesh* אָרֹן-קודש (דער) ‘the (Holy) Ark, i.e. the cabinet or the cupboard built into an alcove, covered with a curtain, in which the Torah scrolls are kept in a synagogue’ (8:6:2, 8:13:3)
 PL *aron-hakodesz* + note
 DE *Bundeslade*, EN *ark*, ES *arca sagrada*, FR *arche sainte*, RU *škaf dlja svitkov* шкаф для свитков ‘cupboard for scrolls’
 JA *seihitsu* 聖櫃 ‘in a synagogue: the Holy Ark, in a church: tabernacle (*lit.* a sacred chest)’ + note
4. YI *sifre-toyres* סְפָרֵי-תוֹרוֹת, plural of (*di*) *seyfer-toyre* סְפָרֵי-תוֹרָה (די) ‘a parchment scroll of the Torah (= the Pentateuch), kept in a synagogue’ (8:6:1, 8:13:3)
 DE *Thora-Rolle* || *Thora*, EN *Torah*, ES *rollo de la Torá*, FR *rouleau de Torah* || *rouleau de la Torah*, PL *Tora* + note, RU *svjaščennaja Tora* священная Тора ‘the holy Torah’
 EN *scroll*, PL *rodał* ‘a parchment scroll of the Torah’,¹¹ RU *svjaščennaja kniga* священная книга ‘holy book’
 JA *Tōrā no makimono* トーラーの巻き物 ‘Torah scroll’ + note
5. YI (*der*) *rov* רֹב (דער) ‘rabbi (especially an Orthodox one)’ (8:6:3, 8:7:1, 8:9:3+4, 8:10:3 [2×], 8:11:2+3+4, 8:12:2+3, 8:13:1+4), plural: *rabonim* רַבָּנִים (8:6:1)
 DE *Rabbi* || *Rebbe* || *Rabbiner*, EN *rabbi*, ES *rabino*, FR *rabbin*, PL *rabin*, RU *ravvin* равин || *rabbi* рабби + note || *rav* раб
 —
 JA *rabi* ラビ ‘rabbi (< Hebrew *rabbi* רַבִּי)’ + note

⁸ Polish *bóznica* (earlier *boznica*), a derivative of *Bóg* ‘God’, was until the seventeenth century used for any temple: a synagogue, a mosque, an Orthodox church, but now it only means a Jewish one (Boryś 2005: 37).

⁹ English *almemar* (~ *almemor* ~ *almimar*) < Mediaeval Hebrew *’almem̄or* אֶלְמִימָר < Arabic *al-minbar* الْمِنْبَر ‘the’ + ‘pulpit, rostrum, platform, dais’ (Klein 1987: 31).

¹⁰ But in 8:6:2 of the Russian translation there is the word *amvon* амвон ‘ambo, pulpit’, not corresponding to anything in particular in the original (the translation is quite free).

¹¹ Polish *rodał* < Middle High German *rodal* ~ *rodel* ‘scroll, list, register, document’ (> Modern German *Rodel*) < Mediaeval Latin *rōtūla* ~ *rōtūlus* ‘scroll’ < Latin ‘little wheel, small circle’, diminutive of Latin *rōta* ‘wheel, circle, ring’.

6. YI (*der*) *rebe* רבי (דער) ‘Hasidic rabbi, rebbe, tsaddik; Rabbi!, Teacher! (form of address used towards a rabbi, a tsaddik or a teacher)’ (8:7:4, 8:8:1+4, 8:9:1+4)
DE *Rabbi* || *Rebbe*, EN *rabbi*, ES *rebe*, FR *rabbi* + gloss, PL *Rabi* || *mój Rabi* ‘my Rabbi’, RU *rabbi* раббѝ + note || *naš rabbi-pravednik* наш раббѝ-праведник ‘our Rabbi – the righteous one’
—
JA *rabi* ラビ ‘rabbi’ – as above
7. YI *reb* רב ‘Reb (title or form of address, used preceding a man’s forename), Mr, Sir’ (8:6:3)
DE *Reb*, EN *Rabbi*, ES *Reb*, FR *reb* + gloss, PL *reb*, RU *rabbi* раббѝ + note
—
JA *-san* さん ‘Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms’
8. YI (*der*) *shames* שמש (דער) ‘shammes / shammash, i.e. a sexton or a beadle in a synagogue, a caretaker in a Jewish community institution, a rabbinical court or a benevolent society etc., also a personal assistant to a rabbi’ (8:9:2+3, 8:10:1+2+4, 8:11:3+4, 8:12:1+2, 8:13:1+4)
DE *Schammes*, FR *shames* + gloss, PL *szames* + note, RU *šames* шамес + note
DE *Synagogendiener*, EN *sexton*, ES *bedel de la sinagoga* || *bedel*, FR *bedeau*
JA *dōmori* 堂守 ‘temple guardian / custodian (*lit.* ditto)’; once (in 8:10:1) the phrase *shinagōgu no bannin* シナゴークの番人 ‘keeper / caretaker of the synagogue’
- The above list can be supplemented with several more terms of the same semantic field, found in other cantos:
9. YI (*der*) *Yom-kiper* / *Yon-kiper* יום־כיפור (דער) ‘Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, the most solemn religious holiday celebrated as a day of fasting and prayers of penitence’ (6:2:1)
DE *Jom Kippur*, EN *Yom Kippur* + note
DE *Versöhnungsfest*, ES *Día del Perdón*, FR *jour du Pardon*, PL *Sądny Dzień* ‘Day of Atonement (*lit.* Day of Judgement)’ + note, RU *Sudnyj den*’ Судный день ‘Day of Atonement (*lit.* Day of Judgement)’
JA *Shokuzai no Hi* (Yomu Kipūru) ヨム・キプールの贖罪の日 ‘Day of Atonement (*lit.* ditto)’ + note
10. YI (*der*) *Peysekh* פסח (דער) ‘Passover, Pesa(c)h, Feast of the Unleavened Bread, a major festival celebrated in spring to commemorate the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery’ (14:15:1 [2×])
DE *Pessach* || *Passahfest* [sic], ES *Pesaj*, FR *Pâque*, PL *Pascha*, RU *paschal’nyj seder* пасхальный седеp ‘Passover Seder (= ritual service and ceremonial meal)’ + note

EN *Passover*

JA *Sugikoshi no Matsuri* 逾越の祭 ‘Passover (*lit.* Festival of Passing)’ + note (also shortened to *matsuri* 祭 ‘festival’)

11. YI (*der*) *tales* טלית (דער) ‘tallit(h), prayer shawl, a white shawl with fringed corners worn by men at prayer’ (13:6:2)

EN *talīs* + note, PL *tales*, RU *tales* *тапес* + note

DE *Gebetsschal*, ES *manto de oraciones*, FR *châle de prière*

JA *tarīto* タリト ‘tallith (< Hebrew *tallit* טלית)’ + note

12. YI (*der*) *kheyder* חדר (דער) ‘(c)heder, i.e. an all-day elementary religious school for boys aged 3/5 to 13’ (15:9:2)

EN *heder* + note, ES *jeider* + note, PL *cheder* + note, RU *xeder xedep* + note

DE *Schule*, FR *étude*

JA *Yudaya gakkō* ユダヤ学校 ‘Jewish school’

13. YI *yeshives* ישיבות, plural of (*di*) *yeshiva* ישיבה (די) ‘yeshiva, i.e. a religious academy or college for unmarried men aged 13/14 to over 20, devoted to the advanced study of rabbinical literature and the Talmud’ (15:11:1+3)

DE *Jeschiwe* [sic], EN *yeshiva* (here plural: *yeshivoth*) + note, ES *ieshive* + note, PL *jeszybot* + note, RU *ešiva euuβα*

FR *école talmudique*

JA *Yudaya shingakkō* (yeshiva) ^{イ エ シ ヲ ア} ユダヤ神学校 ‘Jewish seminary’ + note (also shortened to *shingakkō* 神学校 ‘seminary, theological school’)

14. YI (*der / dos*) *bes-medresh* בית־מדרש (דער / דאָס) ‘a public prayer and study house located at or near the synagogue’ (15:11:1)

ES *beis-medresh* + note, PL *Bet-hamidrasz* + note

DE *Betstube*, EN *synagogue*, FR *maison de prière*, RU omitted

JA *kitōsho* (beto midorashu) ^{ベト・ミドラシュ} 祈禱所 ‘prayer room, chapel, oratory (*lit.* place of prayer)’ + note

15. YI (*di*) *Gemore / Gmore* גמרא (די) ‘the Talmud; the Gemara, i.e. the second part of the Talmud, providing a rabbinical commentary on the first part called Mishna(h)’ (15:11:2)

EN *Talmud*, ES *guemore* + note, PL *Gemara*, RU *Talmud* *Талмуд*

DE *Text*, FR omitted

JA *Tarumūdo* タルムード ‘the Talmud (< Hebrew *Talmud* תלמוד)’ + note

Before the analysis proper of this material, a simple quantitative summary appears to be in order. It covers all the equivalents listed above, and as sometimes more than one counterpart is used by the translators for the same Yiddish word, the total for each language exceeds fifteen, i.e. the number of the items on the list.

Translation	Yiddish-/Hebrew-derived		Other		Total (100%)
Polish	14	82%	3	18%	17
Russian	13	68%	6	32%	19
English	10	62%	6	38%	16
Spanish	10	59%	7	41%	17
German	14	58%	10	42%	24
French	8	44%	10	56%	18
Japanese	8	38%	13	62%	21

The words derived from Yiddish or Hebrew are usually adapted to the borrowing language – phonetically and of course orthographically, but sometimes morphologically as well (cf. 5-DE *Rabbiner*, ES *rabino*, PL *rabin*, RU *ravvin*); they mainly constitute terms of long and established tradition in Europe. Only exceptionally are they provided with some additional, explanatory element (6-RU *naš rabbi-pravednik* ‘our Rabbi – the righteous one’, 10-DE *Passahfest*).

The “other devices” by contrast are only partly traditional words related to Judaism (e.g. 3-DE *Bundeslade*, 4-PL *rodał* ‘a parchment scroll of the Torah’, 10-EN *Passover*), and they further include ad hoc coinages or descriptive phrases introduced by the translators (2-DE *Thora-Pult*, 3-RU *škaf dlja svitkov* ‘cupboard for scrolls’, 13-FR *école talmudique*). Another group here are words less precise than in the original, such of a wider – sometimes much wider – meaning, which makes them acceptable as contextual equivalents only, but not as lexical ones (e.g. 2-FR *tribune*, 12-DE *Schule*, FR *étude*, 15-DE *Text*; also 2-RU *altar* ‘altar’, rather questionable as a counterpart for ‘bema’). This last device (approximate equivalents) appears in combination with the previous one (elaborate ad hoc phrases), the latter being used at the first occurrence only and later on in the text replaced by the shortened variant (8-ES *bedel de la sinagoga* || *bedel*).

And now for the Japanese translation. Asukai and Hosomi made use of each and every one of these methods while rendering the discussed Yiddish words in their version: borrowings from Hebrew (5/6-JA *rabi*, 15-JA *Tarumūdo*), established

Japanese equivalents of other origin (1-JA *shinagōgu*, 3-JA *seiheitsu*), ad hoc coinages (12-JA *Yudaya gakkō*), approximate equivalents (7-JA *-san*, 8-JA *dōmori*), full names and their shortened variants (10-JA *Sugikoshi no Matsuri* || *matsuri*, 13-JA *Yudaya shingakkō* || *shingakkō*). However, there is one more means utilized in this translation, absolutely impossible to employ in the European languages (or any other language, for that matter). It consists in using the reading aid, called *furigana* 振り仮名 or *rubi* ルビ, i.e. syllabic characters placed beside or above Chinese characters, whose principal task is to give a phonetic transcription of words with a difficult or unusual reading. Complicated as the Japanese writing system is, this *furigana* – contrary to its original purpose – is sometimes used for indicating a reading at variance with the one following from the Chinese characters. In this way the Chinese characters convey the meaning of the word, but their reading is to be ignored and replaced by the one given in the *furigana*.¹² The Japanese translators fall back on this trick in as many as three cases out of the fifteen listed above: in 9-JA *Shokuzai no Hi* (ヨム・キプール 贖罪の日) the characters 贖罪の日 clarify the meaning ‘Day of Atonement’, but their usual pronunciation *Shokuzai no Hi* is to be replaced with ヨム・キプール, i.e. *Yomu Kipūru*; so also in 13-JA *Yudaya shingakkō* (yeshiva) ヨダヤ神学校 (イ・エ・シ・ヴ・ア) ‘Jewish seminary’ and 14-JA *kitōsho* (beto midorashu) (ベト・ミドラシュ 祈禱所) ‘prayer room, chapel’. The only instance that remotely resembles this Japanese device can be found in the German version, when a borrowing from Hebrew is directly followed by its native equivalent: “Ach Warschau, Stadt der Juden, ein Gewimmel war das einstmals, Jom Kippur | Ein endloses Versöhnungsfest mit Beten, Streiten, Handeln in der Synagog” (6:2:1–2; cf. 9-DE above), although a repetition of this kind may very well be just a poetic devise as Biermann’s translation is rather free and tending towards a loose adaptation (its altered overtones as compared with the original are emphasized by Sitarz and Pawelec 2015: 41–43).

As can be seen, the translation techniques of Asukai and Hosomi are not much different from those found in the European versions – it is only the frequency of the individual methods that is disparate. The contrast is especially striking when Japanese is compared with Polish or Russian, but the fact itself that the Japanese translation ranks at the very bottom of the table above is indeed telling. This is undoubtedly related to the various degree to which Jewish terminology has been established in the particular languages, although it must be stressed that the data collected in the present paper refer to the analyzed translations, and not to the languages in their entirety.

¹² The result is somewhat similar to the Latin-derived abbreviations in English, such as *e.g.* = *for example* or *viz.* = *namely*, where the writing is one thing and the reading is another.

There is also another aspect to the way in which words reflecting the culture, religion and everyday life of the Yiddish speakers are expressed in translations. After the mass murder of Jews during the Second World War, after their disappearance from most cities and towns of Europe, long-established terms in question have gradually been falling into disuse. Thus, for instance, of the fourteen Yiddish- and Hebrew-derived words present in the Polish translation by Ficowski some three quarters are no more commonly understood nowadays, even though they can be found in many a modern dictionary. In such a situation the employment of transparent – even if less accurate – expressions or phrases makes the translated text more easily accessible to the average contemporary reader, saving them the necessity of studying footnotes or consulting a dictionary. This comfort can be enjoyed by the Japanese public, while the Polish or, say, Russian version of *Dos lid...* is more demanding. To put it another way, the Japanese notes can be read, the Polish ones – must. (The issue here is not to claim the superiority of one strategy over the other, but merely to state this marked difference resulting from disparate history and culture of Central and Eastern Europe on the one hand and East Asia on the other, a difference which is worthy of a separate description from a sociolinguistic perspective.) This striving for intelligibility coupled with the aforementioned literalness can be called the two main features of Asukai and Hosomi's Japanese translation of "The song of the murdered Jewish people" by Yitskhok Katzenelson.

References

- Asukai M., Hosomi K. (transl.). 1999. Itsuhaku Katseneruson: *Horobosareta Yudaya no tami no uta*. Tōkyō.
- Baum B. (transl.). 2007. Yitskhok Katzenelson: *Le chant du peuple juif assassiné*. Paris.
- Baux E. (transl.). 1992. Icxak Kaceneł'son: *Pesn' ob ubiennom evrejskom narode*. Tel'-Aviv.
- Biermann W. (transl.). 1994. Jizchak Katzenelson: *Dos lied vunem ojsgehargetn jidishn volk / Großer Gesang vom ausgerotteten jüdischen Volk*. [with a Roman transcription of the original]. Köln.
- Boryś W. 2005. *Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego*. Kraków.
- Ficowski J. (transl.). 1986. Icchak Kacenełson: *Pieśń o zamordowanym żydowskim narodzie / Yitskhok Katzenelson: Dos lid fun oysgehargetn yidishn folk*. [bilingual, Polish-Yiddish edition]. Warszawa.
- GFHA = *Ghetto Fighters' House Archives* [available at: infocenters.co.il/gfh/search.asp?lang=ENG].
- Holtzman A. 2010. Katzenelson, Yitshak. – *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. [available at: www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Katzenelson_Yitshak].
- Joüon P., Muraoka T. 1996. *A grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. [vol. 1–2, *Subsidia Biblica* 14]. Roma.

- Klein E. 1987. *A comprehensive etymological dictionary of the Hebrew language for readers of English*. Jerusalem, Haifa. [available at: archive.org/details/AComprehensiveEtymologicalDictionaryOfTheHebrewLanguageErnestKlein1987OCR].
- Pawelec A., Sitarz M. 2017. Itzhak Katzenelson's *Dos lid fun oysgehargetn yidishn folk* in translation: The first four decades. – *Scripta Judaica Cracoviensia* 15: 73–81. [available at: www.ejournals.eu/Scripta-Judaica-Cracoviensia].
- Rosenbloom N.H. (transl.). 1980. Yitzhak Katzenelson: *The song of the murdered Jewish people*. [sine loco].
- Sitarz M., Pawelec A. 2014-. *Katzenelson project*. [available at: plus.google.com/103151046891121309398].
- Sitarz M., Pawelec A. 2015. “Fartaytsht un farbesert”: Wolf Biermann and Yitskhok Katsenelson's *Dos lid funem oysgehargetn yidishn folk*. – *Studia Litteraria Universitatis Iagellonicae Cracoviensis* 10.1: 37–44. [available at: www.ejournals.eu/Studia-Litteraria].
- Toker 2006 = Toker E. (Spanish transl.), Pons A. (Ladino transl.). 2006. Itsjok Katzenelson: *Dos lid funem oisgueharguetn idishn folk / El canto del pueblo judío asesinado / El kante del puevlo djidyó atemado*. [bilingual translation with a Roman transcription of the original]. Barcelona.
- Zilbertsvayg Z. 1967. Katsenelson, Yitskhok(-Yekhiel). – Zilbertsvayg Z. (ed.). *Leksikon fun yidishn teater*. [vol. 5]. Meksike Siti: col. 4686–4726. [available at: archive.org/details/nybc201093].